

Message Text

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73

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10 LAB-06

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 L-03 NSC-07

PA-04 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 INT-08 AID-20 PC-04

DRC-01 /146 W

----- 121943

R 051529Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2431

C O N F I D E N T I A L LA PAZ 1336

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, BL

SUBJ: DIVISION CONTINUES TO PLAGUE MINERS FEDERATION

REF: LA PAZ 1017

1. THE UNIONS AT CATAVI - SIGLO XX CONTINUE TO CHALLENGE THE AUTHORITY OF THE MINERS FEDERATION (FSTMB) AND THEY HAVE CALLED FOR AN EXTRAORDINARY CONGRESS TO ANALYZE THE FSTMB'S CONDUCT OF THE NEGOTIATIONS WHICH ENDED JANUARY 28 IN AGREEMENT WITH COMIBOL ON A 25 PERCENT WAGE INCREASE. LEADERS FROM CATAVI-SIGLO XX WOULD USE THIS CONGRESS TO SEEK FORMAL REPUDIATION OF CURRENT FSTMB LEADERSHIP.

2. VICTOR LOPEZ, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE FSTMB, INFORMED EMBOFF THAT HE HAD CANCELLED SCHEDULED TRIP ON FEBRUARY 18 TO UNIONS AT CATAVI SIGLO XX BECAUSE THE COMING CARNIVAL SEASON DID NOT PROVIDE PROPER ATMOSPHERE FOR THE DISCUSSIONS NEEDED TO REINTEGRATE REBELLIOUS UNION LEADERS. FSTMB EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS WILL BEGIN A SERIES OF CALLS ON MARCH 5 AIMED AT PACIFYING UNIONS WHICH WERE NOT SATISFIED WITH THE RESULTS OF THE RECENT NEGOTIATIONS. HOWEVER, THE NEW SCHEDULE OF VISITS AIMS AT WORKING THOSE UNIONS LEAST OPPOSED TO THE FEDERATION LEADERSHIP FIRST, SAVING THE CATAVI-SIGLO XX

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GROUP FOR LAST. THIS STRATEGY IS THE OPPOSITE OF THAT

PLANNED ON FEBRUARY 18 (SEE REFTEL) AND MAY INDICATE THAT
THE FSTMB LEADERSHIP NOW CONSIDERS THAT THE SOLUTION TO THE
INTERNAL CONFLICT WILL BE MORE DIFFICULT THAN ORIGINALLY
IMAGINED.
STEDMAN

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